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# The Appeal to Caesar

A Sacred Drama in Three Acts

Protraying the Character and Life  
of the Apostle Paul.

BY THE REV. DAVID H. JEMISON



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Kappa Sigma Pi, or Modern Knights of St. Paul

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PUBLISHED AND CONTROLLED BY

Grand Chaplain, Kappa Sigma Pi, D. H. Jemison

222 WEST FOURTH STREET  
CINCINNATI, OHIO, U. S. A.



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# Saint Paul's Appeal to Caesar

**A Historical Drama by Rev. D. H. Jemison**

- Act I. Paul before Festus and Agrippa in castle at Caesarea.  
Act II. Chained to a soldier in his own hired house in Rome.  
Act III. Paul's second trial in Rome. Before the Bloody Nero.

The language is largely scriptural and otherwise in harmony with the scriptural accounts and inferences, and always true to the character and teachings of the greatest Apostle.

## Characters

- Julius:** The Centurion who took Paul to Rome and later became Praefect of the Imperial Guards under Nero.
- Cornelius:** Centurion of Caesarea. A just man, who prayed and was first taught the true way by the Apostle Peter.
- Festus:** Roman governor of the province, successor to Felix.
- High Priest:** Annanias in office through political intrigue.
- Tertullus:** A Roman lawyer and orator practicing in Jerusalem and elsewhere.
- Paul:** The great Apostle to the Gentiles.
- Agrippa:** King of Judea, Herodian dynasty, reared in Rome, subject to the Emperor.
- Bernice:** The ill-mated partner of Agrippa.
- Luke:** The evangelist and companion of Paul
- Paul's Guard:** Chained together that Paul might have limited freedom.
- Mark:** The evangelist and companion of Paul.
- Onesimus:** A converted runaway slave which Paul sent back to his master Philemon to receive his forgiveness and pardon.
- Tychicus:** A Christian companion and messenger for Paul.

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**Paulina:** The probable name of Paul's sister of Judea who it is assumed visited her brother during his Rome imprisonment.

**Lad:** Paulina's son, who saved Paul from Jewish plot in Jerusalem by giving information to officials.

**Captain:** A centurion or petty officer in Roman garrison.

**Nero:** A Caesar, Roman Emperor 14 years. Most cruel and depraved of men. Killed himself A. D. 70.

**Popaea:** Nero's paramour, a proselite to Jewish faith in position to secure Paul's death to please his enemies.

**Alexander:** The coppersmith of Ephesus, whose trade had been injured by Paul's preaching against idolatry.

**Soldiers:** or armored guards as needed.

**Jews:** Three or more.

**Christian Worshipers:** Singers and martyrs, as needed.

**Court:** Attendants and entertainers ad. lib.

## PAUL'S "APPEAL TO CAESAR"

This Sacred Drama has been prepared in the same spirit and for the same purpose as the rituals and regular work of our Order, viz. to help develop Christian character and preach the vital gospel of Christ.

This play has been tried out by several different and widely scattered chapters, and thoroughly tested by critics and popular audiences. It is a success. You need not fail with it. It can be spoken or read without staging or costumes with pleasure. It can be played by 12 or 14 young men by eliminating some unnecessary parts and doubling on others, or it can be enlarged by additional soldiers, citizens, and court entertainers to 60 or 100 characters in full stage and costumes.

It has been prepared for churches and halls but it has been taken by the churches to the largest theaters and auditoriums. The Central office has expended several hundred dollars on costumes and scenery which, with the play right, is rented at a comparatively nominal rate according to the needs and conditions of each local chapter or church applying, and all profit through this royalty after cost is provided will go to the missionary and extension work of the Kappa Sigma Pi.

The director should impress the actors with the purpose to teach and represent important religious truths, and we suggest that each rehearsal be opened with a short prayer for divine blessing. This will not detract from the great pleasure and wholesome enjoyment the young people have in working up and giving this beautiful performance.

### SOME REASONS FOR USING IT.

1. To preach the gospel in a popular and effective way.
2. To advertise the spirit and character of K. S. P.
3. To teach the boys the life of our hero-
4. To make the chapter live and grow stronger,
5. To use a delightful method in securing funds to promote your work.

There are other reasons you can find.



## APPEAL TO CÆSAR.

### ACT I.

SCENE I. (*Curtain rises with Cornelius DL inspecting the court-room in a slow, dignified manner. Enter from right, Julius.*)

JULIUS: Why is the castle all astir at this early hour, Cornelius? Me thinks this quite unusual.

CORNELIUS: This is an important day in Cæsarea, Julius, and my heart is heavy lest justice and right may not prevail.

JULIUS: Thou stirrest my interest. What can thy words mean? Tell me the news that seems to have missed me since my arrival.

CORNELIUS: Well, thou hast heard of our noted prisoner Paul of Tarsus, whom Felix left in bonds in my care these two years. Since Festus is governor and has just returned from Jerusalem, he hath set this day for the trial of Paul.

JULIUS: Why art thou so concerned for the welfare of this prisoner?

CORNELIUS: I could not have so noble a man in my charge for two years without becoming much attached to him, and believing him innocent; besides, his faith and mine are the same, and he has helped me much to understand the wonderful teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

JULIUS: If thou art sure of his innocence, why art thou uneasy for the results of his trial?

CORNELIUS: Because it is a game of politics. (*Looking about to see if alone.*) Festus is playing for the favor of the Jewish leaders, and they are set on the death of Paul, and have no scruples as to the method. Not being able to kill him when Claudius Lysias sent him down here to escape their plot, they now seek to have him sent back to Jerusalem, so that they may have him assassinated on the way.

If Festus complies with their demand, there is no hope.

JULIUS: This trial will be quite interesting. But this in itself would not stir up the people to the hustle and bustle that I see on the streets at this early hour, would it?

CORNELIUS: Probably not; but besides the arrival of the prosecutors and witnesses from Jerusalem, including many important personages, a runner has come, saying that King Agrippa with Bernice will also soon arrive.

JULIUS: I shall be alert to see and learn all that I can to-day, and may I ask a favor of thee, Cornelius?

CORNELIUS: Ask on, Julius; helpfulness is the desire of my heart since I have found Jesus as a Savior and Friend.

JULIUS: When we have opportunity, tell me more about thy religion and thy strange experience with Peter the Apostle, rumors of which have reached me, for I admire thee and would like a spirit like thine.

However, the request I had in mind is political. I'll tell thee confidentially, I am promised the position of the Prefect of the Imperial Guards in Rome, and it is important that I am near when the change is made.

When thou hast the ear of the governor, tell him it would be well to make me his first messenger to Rome, and some day I may serve thee.

CORNELIUS: I shall gladly do what I can without thought of thy reward, but in His name, that thou mayest some day be a disciple and serve the holy cause in Rome.

The hour is near, and the court must be prepared, so I must hasten to my duties.

JULIUS: Pardon the delay I have caused thee, Cornelius; I, too, must go; but command me at any time.

CORNELIUS: (*Going to UL*) Ho, soldiers, bring in the prisoner and witnesses; Lord Festus hath ordered court.

SCENE 2. (*Enter at DL Paul between two soldiers, chained to one of them, cross to UR, and face DC. Cornelius follows over to UR, motions to Tertullus to enter, then takes position between*



*Paul and governor's seat.)*

*(Enter at DR Tertullus, High Priest Annas, and two or three other Jews, cross to UL and face DC. Julius follows to DL and faces DC.)*

*(Enter at DR Governor Festus with two soldier guards, passes to judgment-seat in UC, all bowing before him; Festus sits and guards pass to his rear and stand. Positions thus form a V shape line-up, so the audience can see and hear every speaking part. In addressing the throne, Paul and others must turn their faces to him as needed, but not turn their back on the audience and so bury their voice in the wings.)*

FESTUS: Cornelius, what quarrel or disturbance troubleth our court and taxeth our patience this morning?

CORNELIUS: My lord governor, the Jewish authorities having thy promise while in Jerusalem are here to prosecute Paul, formerly called Saul of Tarsus. Witnesses and prisoner are here before thee seeking thy judgment.

FESTUS: What are the records in this case?

CORNELIUS: I have here the charge sent with the prisoner from Jerusalem by Lysias, the chief captain two years ago, upon which Felix deferred judgment to thee.

FESTUS: Let it be read.

CORNELIUS: (*Or assistant*) "Claudius Lysias sends greetings unto the most excellent Felix the governor. This man was seized by the Jews and was on the point of being killed by them, when I came and rescued him with my soldiers; for I learned that he was a Roman citizen. And when I wished to learn the charge which they made against him, I took him down to their Sanhedrin, and there I found that the charge had reference to certain questions of their law, and that he was accused of no offense worthy of death or imprisonment. And now having received information from a lad that a plot has been

formed against the man's life, I send him to thee forthwith, and have told his accusers that they must bring their charge before thee. Farewell."

FESTUS: (*Aside*) Felix must have been looking for a bribe, as usual, or he would not have left this man over to embarrass me.

(*Louder*) What are thy accusations, Annas?

HIGH PRIEST: This fellow hath greatly disturbed the authorities of our nation, but lest I blunder in speech before thee, Tertullus, the learned Roman lawyer, will at thy bidding make accusation.

FESTUS: Speak on, Tertullus.

TERTULLUS: Seeing that by thee we enjoy much peace, and by thy office evils are corrected for this nation, we accept it in all ways and in all places, most excellent governor, with all thankfulness. But that I be not further tedious unto thee, I entreat thee to hear us of thy clemency a few words. For we have found this fellow a pestilent fellow, and a mover of insurrection among all the Jews throughout the world, which is an offense against the Roman Government. Second, he is a ring leader of the sect of the Nazarenes, which involves heresy against the law of Moses. And third, he tried to profane the temple when Rome gives protection to the Jewish worship, and it was on this occasion that we laid hold on him.

By examining him thyself thou shalt take knowledge of all these things of which we accuse him.

HIGH PRIEST: Tertullus has well spoken, for Saul is a dangerous man to this nation.

(*Others of the Jewish party may make similar remarks.*)

FESTUS: (*Beckoning to Paul*) What hast thou to say for thyself?

PAUL: Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been many years a judge in this nation, I cheerfully make my defense. For thou hast the power to learn that

within twelve days of the time that I went up to Jerusalem I was before Felix in this court where these accusers failed to convict me.

Neither in the temple, nor in the synagogue, nor in the streets did they find me disputing with any man, nor gathering a crowd.

Neither can they prove these things whereof they now accuse me. But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call a sect, so serve I the God of our fathers, believing all things which are according to the law and which are written in the prophets; having hope toward God, which these also themselves look for that there shall be a resurrection of the just and the unjust.

I also strive earnestly to keep a conscience always free of offense toward God and man.

Now after several years I come back to Jerusalem to bring alms to my nation and offerings to the temple. And they found me so doing in the temple, not gathering a multitude nor causing a tumult; but certain Jews from Asia discovered me who ought to have been here before thee to accuse me if they had any object against me.

*Or let these, my accusers, say themselves whether they found me guilty of any offense when I was brought before the Sanhedrin, except for these words only when I cried out as I stood in their midst: "Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am called in question before you this day."*

Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Cæsar have I sinned at all.

HIGH PRIEST: (*To Tertullus*) Quick, now, or we lose our chance.

TERTULLUS: My Lord Festus, pardon my boldness; but if thou wouldst send this prisoner back to the Sanhedrin and let the Jewish law have its course, it would be most pleasing to the nation.

FESTUS: This man was before the Sanhedrin, and they failed to agree that he was guilty; besides, he is a Roman citizen and is in the care of my government. It can not be as you ask.

TERTULLUS: May I make one more request, most noble Festus? If thou thyself would be pleased to again go to Jerusalem and try this case nearer the scene of the arrest, it is all we can ask of thee.

FESTUS: (*Motions Cornelius to approach and holds a moment's conversation with him in an undertone, but from the motions and glances the audience can see that Cornelius is warning him against their plot.*)

FESTUS: (*To Cornelius*) These Jews have no case against this man, but they will make trouble for me if I let him get away from them. (*Louder to Paul*) Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem and there be judged of these things before me?

PAUL: I am standing before Cæsar's judgment-seat, and here ought my trial to be. To the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou knowest full well. If I am guilty of breaking the law, and have done any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die; but if these things are false of which they accuse me, no man can give me up to them.

I appeal to Cæsar!

FESTUS: (*After conferring with Cornelius*) Thou hast appealed unto Cæsar; unto Cæsar thou shalt go.

(*Chagrin and anger among the Jews and congratulations among Paul's friends.*)

(*Trumpet sound in R wing announcing the arrival of King Agrippa and Bernice.*)

CORNELIUS: (*After trumpet runs to R entrance—looks out—turns court—speaks.*) My Lord Festus, the king is without, his royal guard in attendance. And with him his Queen Bernice.

Let all ye people receive the King Agrippa.

(*Then entrance of king and Bernice, four guards, and other citizens of Cesarea, if available. All bow before the king, as Festus steps down with Roman salutation, then takes the king's hand and escorts him to the middle seat, while the king leads Bernice to the seat at R and Festus takes one at L.*)



SCENE 3. PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA.

(*Guests received and seated.*)

FESTUS: King Agrippa, and all men who are here present with us, ye behold this man, about whom all the multitude of the Jews made suit to me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying that he ought not to live any longer. But I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death; as he himself appealed unto the emperor, I determined to send him. Of whom I have no certain thing to write unto my lord. Wherefore I bring him before you, and especially before thee, King Agrippa, that, after examination, I may have somewhat to write. For it seemeth foolish to me, in sending a prisoner, not withal to signify the charges against him.

AGRIPPA: Paul, thou art permitted to speak for thyself.

PAUL: (*Stretching forth his hand*) I think myself happy, King Agrippa, that I shall defend myself to-day, before thee, against all the charges of the Jewish accusers; especially because thou art expert in all the customs and questions of the Jews. Wherefore I pray thee hear me patiently.

My life and conduct from my youth is known to all the Jews. They knew me from the beginning and can testify, if they would, that, following the strictest sect of our religion, I lived a Pharisee.

And now I stand here to be judged for the hope of the promise made by God unto our fathers. Which promise is the end whereto, in all their zealous worship, night and day, our twelve tribes hope to come. Yet this hope, O King Agrippa, is charged against me as a crime, and that by Jews. What! is it judged among you a thing incredible that God should raise the dead?

Now I myself determined in my own mind that I ought strongly to oppose the name of Jesus the Nazarene.

And this I did in Jerusalem, and many of the holy people I myself shut up in prison, having re-

ceived from the chief priests authority to do so; and when they were condemned to death, I gave my vote against them.

And in every synagogue I continually punished them, and tried to make them blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I went even to foreign cities to persecute them.

With this purpose I was on my road to Damascus, bearing commission from the high priests, when I saw in the way, O King Agrippa, at mid-day a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and those who journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth I heard a voice speaking to me in the Hebrew tongue, saying: Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the goad. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise and stand upon thy feet; go into the city, to the street called Straight, to the house of one Judas, and thou shalt be told what to do. For unto this end I have appeared unto thee, to ordain thee a minister and a witness, both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things where'n I shall appear unto thee.

Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision. But first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and all Judea, and even unto the Gentiles, I proclaim the tidings that they should repent and turn to God.

For these causes the Jews, when they caught me in the temple, tried to kill me. Therefore, through God's help, I stand firm unto this day and testify both to small and great; but I declare nothing else but what the prophets and Moses foretold, that the Messiah should suffer and die and be raised from the dead, and should proclaim light to the people.

BERNICE: O, O! Festus, that man is beside himself.

FESTUS: (*Interrupting in a loud voice*). (*Rising*) Paul, thou art mad, thy much learning is turning thee mad.



PAUL: I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak forth the words of soberness and truth.

AGRIPPA: (*Interrupting*) I have heard enough. (*Rising*) Let us retire.

FESTUS: Cornelius, thou wilt deliver the prisoner into the hands of Julius, whom thou hast recommended as trustworthy, that he may be taken without delay by the first vessel to Rome.

Julius, thou wilt come to me to-morrow for the letter explaining the case and the appeal to Cæsar.

AGRIPPA: This man might have been set at liberty if he had not appealed unto the emperor.

BERNICE: Agrippa, thou art indeed friendly to the prisoner, Art thou a convert to his faith?

PAUL: (*Turning to the king*) Yea, the king knoweth these things, and I can speak to him with boldness, for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him, for this hath not been done in a corner.

King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? Yea, I know that thou believest.

AGRIPPA: (*Ironically*) With a little more persuasion thou wouldst make me a Christian.

PAUL: I would to God that, whether with little or with much, not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, might have what I possess, except these chains.

(*As the court breaks up the curtain falls.*)

(*A song or some entertainment for the king may be introduced as a closing scene.*)

## ACT II.

### ROME: IN HIS OWN HIRED HOUSE.

SCENE I. (*Curtain rises on Luke sitting at right of writing-table in DL, with Paul standing at left of table, chained by right wrist to left wrist of soldier-guard, who stands just to rear of him.*)

LUKE: Well, Brother Paul, we have settled these three days in thy hired house, and we are not uncomfortable as far as the house goes; thanks to thy citizenship and the kindness of Burrus.

PAUL: Indeed, we are fortunate, and since I must be a prisoner for Christ's sake, I am pleased to have so manly a soldier as my guard, and so faithful and skillful a companion as thyself, Brother Luke.

LUKE: I was just wondering perchance I might be a burden to thee in the midst of thy trouble.

PAUL: Far from it; thy skill as a physician and thy power to write and teach, together with thy love for our Master and His cause, make thee priceless. Thou art a great comfort to me, Luke.

LUKE: Thy words make me happy, and I shall constantly await thy commands. (*Rising*) Thou hast expressed a desire to speak with the leading Jews of Rome. Shall I go invite them in to-day, Brother Paul?

PAUL: Yes, if I can speak with them before our enemies send reports to prejudice their minds, it will prevent unnecessary trouble.

Go now if thou wilt, and may the Master give thee success in bringing such as should come.

LUKE: I shall hasten and soon return. Farewell. (*Raising hand high front and dropping it in salute.*)

PAUL: Farewell—(*Salute.*) (*Exit Luke DR.*)

PAUL: (*To soldier*) Thou hast the appearance of being a good soldier, and I trust I shall not weary thee over much, but rather that thou shalt be entertained by the many goings on in this place, and shall come to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

GUARD: I have learned enough now to want to be one such as thou art. There is no peace in any other religion, although I have visited all the altars and tried hard to find it. Teach me thy way, I pray thee.

PAUL: So I will gladly. The way of life in Jesus is plain and simple, so that a wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein.

A willing soul is sure to find the way and the truth.

As a disciple thou shalt have great opportunity for heroic service in spreading the good news to others of thy kind. Hast thou the courage for it?

GUARD: I'll be the best soldier I can. My master, the prefect of the Prætorian Guards, Burrus Afranius, although what thou callest a heathen, is a great and just man in our nation. He with the noble Seneca reared and educated Nero from childhood and secured his elevation to emperor.

But they do say that Nero is more and more unwilling to listen to the counsel of Burrus, and has threatened to dispose of him in the manner he did of his mother, wife, and other relatives who crossed him whom he thought better dead than alive.

When Burrus has lost his hold on the emperor, then tolerance and justice will take their flight.

PAUL: Never fear; there is one greater than Nero before whose judgment-seat Nero shall stand. He shall protect His own from all harm, although some of us may have to lay down our lives that the world may learn of Him as a mighty Savior, even in the trial of death.

Who seems to have the greatest influence over the emperor?

GUARD: None more than Popæa, his paramour, for whom he killed his faithful wife Octavia.

PAUL: What dost thou know of her faith?

GUARD: It is reported that she is a proselyte to the Jewish faith, but I suppose an unworthy member of it, most likely for political purposes.

PAUL: Ah, but thy news is startling; she will be our most dangerous foe if mine enemies, who have hounded me these years, shall enlist her service.

The sea will soon be open long enough for the ships of Tyre to reach here bringing mine enemies, and let us trust some of our dear friends.

Keep thy ears open for every report, good and bad, that we may not blindly walk into their trap to slay me without a just hearing.

GUARD: Through my friends I shall find out every report and movement of interest to you from the gates to the palace. Trust me, my noble prisoner.

PAUL: Blessed be thou, my brother, and may the Lord lead thee into the glory of His great salvation and mightily use thee in the cause of truth.

I hear approaching footsteps, even many.

*(Enter Luke, bringing three or more Jews. Luke UC; first and second Jew in DR, and third Jew in UR or UC.)*

LUKE: Peace be unto thee, Brother Paul; several of our nation, leaders in the synagogues, have come at thy invitation to meet thee.

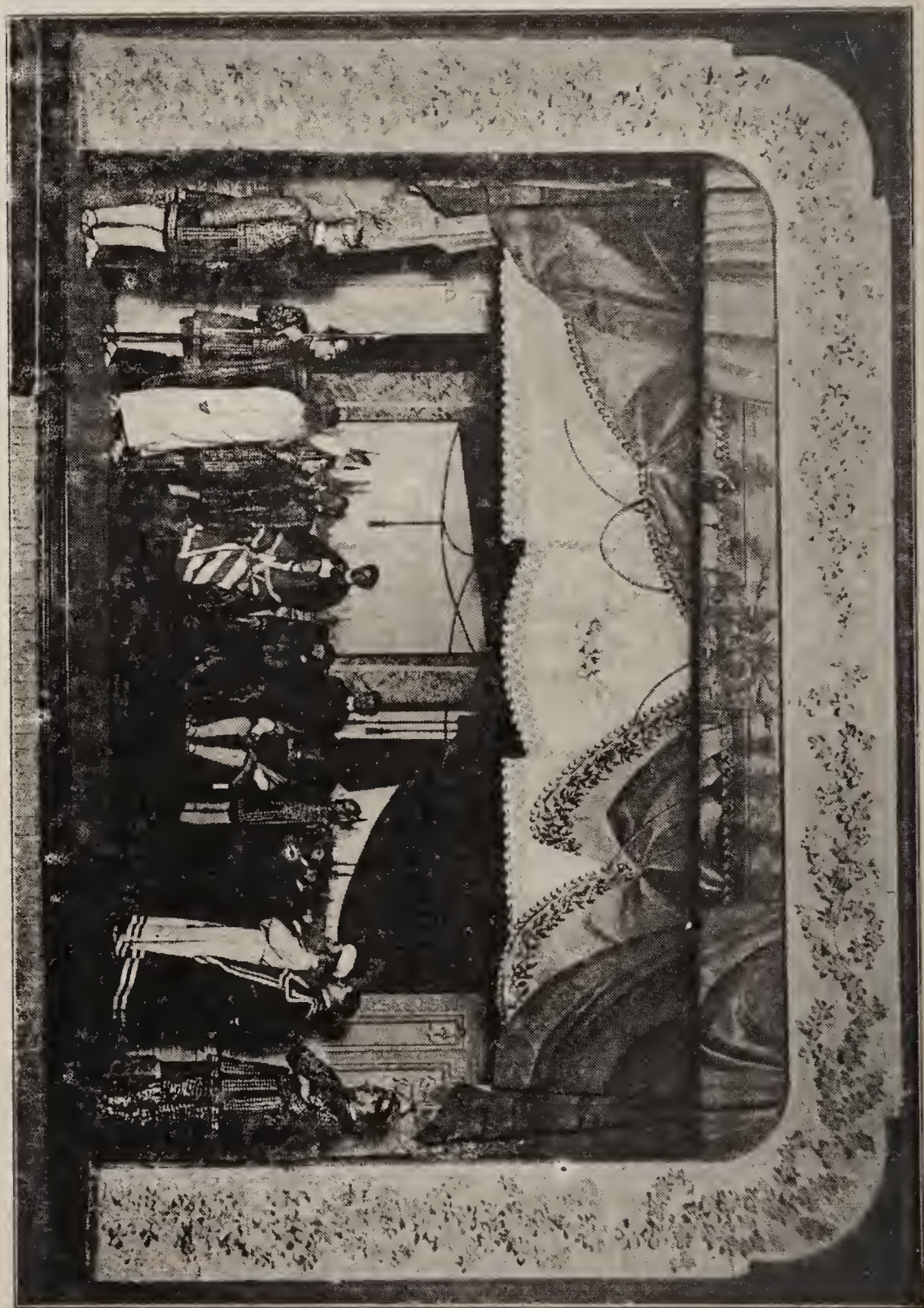
PAUL: *(DC)* Peace to thee and welcome to all. Ye have greatly favored me with your presence.

1ST JEW: We would be courteous to one of our own nation, even though he be in chains, for it is according to the law to help even an ox out of a pit. We like not the idea of a Jew turning from the authority of the Sanhedrin to the heathen court, as it is rumored thou hast, but we would hear thee as to this.

PAUL: I, brethren, although I had done nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers, yet was delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans who, when they had examined me, desired to set me at liberty, because there was no cause of death in me. But when the Jews spake against it I was constrained to appeal to Cæsar, not that I had aught to accuse my nation. This is why I did entreat thee to see and speak







Act I. Before Agrippa.

“I count myself happy to defend myself before thee.”





Act II.  
"She is not dead but sleepeth."





Act III.

"I pity thee, thou servant of the devil."

with me, for because of the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

2D JEW: We neither received letter from Judea concerning thee, nor did any of the brethren come hither to speak harm of thee.

3D JEW: We desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest, for as to this sect of the Nazarenes it is known unto us that everywhere it is spoken against.

PAUL: We can appoint a day to fully discuss this matter, but for the present bear with me to say that it is well known among my friends and enemies that I am a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, from no mean city, Tarsus of Celicia. I sat at the feet of Gamaliel, was honored as a magistrate of my city and afterwards a member of the Sanhedrin. A Pharisee of the Pharisees, everywhere persecuting those of this sect until I saw the light and had a great vision on the way to Damascus.

Now, brethren, I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without the law shall also perish without the law; and as many as have sinned under the law, shall be judged by the law.

But God recommended His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1ST JEW: Thy words are blasphemy! There is but one God. Thou shalt surely suffer for thy heresy. I wash my hands of this place. (*Starts to right exit, but is stopped by second Jew.*)

2D JEW: Be not hasty, my brother; my heart is greatly stirred with the hope of these words of Paul. Surely the prophets promised these things to Israel. I desire further instruction.

3D JEW: Yea, these words are too good to be true for me,



for I must be judged by the law; but if thou, Paul, will show me where mercy is, that will I seek.

PAUL: I shall gladly point the way as it is revealed in the blessed Christ, if thou wilt come another day, but now other friends await me, and matters of importance claim my attention. Peace be to you all. Farewell!

*(Exit Jews at right with a Roman salutation and "farewell.")*

PAUL: (DC) Luke, if thou wilt call Mark, I will finish my Epistle to Philemon.

LUKE: *(Going to DL door)* Mark, Brother Paul calls for thee.

MARK: *(Entering at once, bringing parchment and stylus)* I was awaiting thy call, Brother Paul. *(Sits rear of table.)* *(Enter also Onesimus and Tychicus, taking seats UC.)*

PAUL: *(Left end of table as in opening scene)* Let us send forth these epistles at once. I write to thee in full confidence of thy obedience, knowing that thou wilt do even more than I say.

Moreover, Philemon, prepare to receive me as thy guest; for I trust, through your prayers, that I shall be given unto thee.

There, salute thee, Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow-laborers.

Give me the pen that I may write my salutation with mine own hand. *(Reading aloud as he writes.)*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Brother Mark, is the Epistle to the Church at Colosse also ready, so that Tychicus may take it?

MARK: Yes, Brother Paul, Tychicus now has the parchment and is ready for the journey.

PAUL: Come thou, Onesimus *(Onesimus rises and comes to meet Paul)*, thou hast good company to Colosse, thy former home, and this letter to thy master with our prayers will soften his heart toward thee, so he will not punish thee for thy escape from servitude;

and now as a good servant of Jesus Christ thou canst serve well until set free by the grace of God and thy master Philemon, for I would that thou wert a servant only of Christ and the Church.

ONESIMUS: (*Taking roll from Paul*) I thank thee for the vision of life thou hast taught me, and I am ready to do the will of the Lord at any cost.

PAUL: And thou, Tychicus (*Tychicus steps forward with epistle in his hand*), I trust thee not only with the letter to the elders of Colosse, but to the brotherly care of Onesimus, that he may not falter in his heroic decision to return to his master. May peace and safety prosper your way! Farewell!

TYCHICUS: Our lives are given to the Master's service. Thou canst surely trust us. Farewell! (*Saluting.*)

ONESIMUS: (*Saluting*) Farewell! (*Both retire. Right exit.*)

LUKE: Brother Paul, it is time for the service and the Christian brethren are gathering in the court without. Shall we not prepare for worship?

PAUL: My heart is sore at parting with my brethren, and I was so concerned for their welfare that I forgot our appointed service. Thou art right. Let the worshipers come in.

(*Enter four or more Christian worshipers; some ladies, singing as they enter, "In the Cross of Christ I glory," take positions in UC. Just as the second stanza of the hymn is ended, let there be a loud knock at the right entrance. Luke goes over and opens the door cautiously, or motions as if so to do, and admits a woman and a lad.*)

LUKE: What do my eyes behold! Paulina, our apostle's sister from Jerusalem. And here is her little son, who saved Paul's life by reporting the plot of the Jerusalem Jews to kill him.

PAUL: (*Meeting them in DC and taking hands or embracing Pauline*) The Lord is gracious in sending thee to me. Was there much hardship on the journey? Art thou well? Thou lookest wearied if not ill.

PAULINA:        (*Clinging to Paul*) The way was long and perilous, my brother. After escaping the storms at sea and robbers on the highway, our worst danger and fright was after entering Rome. There is much disorder and rioting on the streets, and but for a friendly Roman whom we met, we would not have found this place. He said that the Prefect of the Guards had been slain by the emperor, a cruel man, appointed in his place, and the populace was wild with anger or fear.

GUARD:           (*Paul and Paulina separate as guard steps up from rear to speak*) Friend Paul, my fears then have been well founded. Burrus is dead. Tigellinus is now my master, whose cunning is like a fox, and whose heart is as a stone.

LAD:              (*Coming forward*) Uncle Paul, do not thou be afraid; I am here now. I will get into this game myself, for thou knowest what a fine revealer of plots I am.

PAUL:            Blessings on thee, my lad; even small boys can do things worth while to advance the Kingdom of God. It was a small boy that thought to bring the fish that our Master multiplied to feed the great multitude on the mountain-side of Galilee.

Thou may'st be very helpful to us, but be cautious while in Rome.

(*Turning to sister*) Make thyself comfortable here, and let us continue our divine service, for the God we worship will surely protect us from real harm, although our faith is sorely tried and tested by the cruelty of our enemies. Let us again sing.

(*Sing another verse of the hymn, and just before closing interruption of noise of tramping feet and knocking outside, demanding entrance R. The door is apparently broken in and four or more soldiers enter with flash of spears, shields, drive the frightened worshipers in a huddle at UL of stage.*)

CAPTAIN.        In the name of Nero, I command this worship to cease, and arrest ye all. Ye shall be taken to the



dungeons and fed to the wild beasts to amuse the populace and quiet the murmurs against the emperor. Soldiers, take them forth!

*(Worshipers fall back frightened to UL—Paul and guard in a dignified way to DL. Paulina, who has been at UR with lad and others to her left, is separated from them in the excitement, and in attempting to get around soldiers to Paul falls unconscious at extreme DR, behind the first soldier unnoticed.)*

GUARD: *(Saluting)* Captain, you will pardon me if I caution thee about too hasty action. Seest thou that I am chained to this man? Knowest not that he is a Roman citizen, under military protection, until he stand before Cæsar? Thou mayest lose thy head by a hasty blunder.

CAPTAIN: In my haste I did not note thy presence. I forgive thy impertinence if perchance thy information proves valuable. Who is thy prisoner?

GUARD: He is best known by the name of Paul, formerly Saul of Tarsus, of Celicia.

CAPTAIN: The puzzle is solved. This Paul, then, is the Saul for whom I have the warrant to bring before the emperor on the morrow.

PAUL: Gladly do I hear thy words, captain, for it has long been my prayer to stand before Cæsar's judgment-seat for justice. As a Roman citizen let me plead thy mercy for these, my guests. Take thy soldiers and return to thy commander, reporting that thou hast located the prisoner needed on the morrow, and let these go their way. If so, I shall pray God for mercy on thee.

CAPTAIN: Thy words, Saul, are not without meaning. Methinks I do well to heed thy advice.

Soldiers, attention! Depart in order, leaving these strange people in peace for a time.

*(Turning so as to see Paulina lying still on the floor)* What has befallen this woman? I ordered none slain.

LAD:                   (*Running down stage, kneeling over Paulina, etc.*)  
My mother is dead, thou wicked man, killed by  
thy cruel soldiers.

                  (*Soldiers all shake their head, "No," as captain  
looks around at them. Captain crosses to front of  
line of soldiers and faces D.*)

LUKE:               (*Passing over to DR*) I think it is only from fright  
in her exhausted condition from her long journey.  
The soldiers did not strike her, but her heart may  
have failed.

                  (*Kneeling by her and feeling her pulse*) She  
hath no pulse; I fear she is dead.

LAD:               (*Crosses to Paul*) O, Uncle Paul, thou hast the  
magic words of life committed unto thee by the  
Master; speak! speak! she must come back to life.

PAUL:              She is not dead, but sleepeth. (*Walking to her side  
slowly, holding both hands out over her until she  
is up*) Paulina, in the name of the Master, whose  
I am, I command thee to arise and comfort thy son.

                  (*She arises slowly, as if awaking, and takes the  
lad in her arms, as he sees her stand unassisted,  
cries, "Mother!" and rushes into her arms.*)

PAUL:              Faith in the Christ pardons sin, reforms the life, heals  
diseases, opens the eyes of the blind, raises the dead,  
and comforts those in sorrow.

                  Let us sing His praises. (*Sing the Gloria Patri.*)  
Curtain.

### ACT III.

#### CÆSAR'S COURT: ROME.

*(Paul's Second Trial. Three Years Later than last Act, and First Trial Before Cæsar.)*

*(Nero, Cæsar, Popæa, Two Consuls. Seated on raised seats, UC. Nero, L, and Popæa, R, slightly higher or forward of Consuls, and other Counsellors or attendants may be arranged about as are available. Four soldiers should be stationed back of throne, two at extreme DR, Julius at extreme DL, with a soldier next to him, with Paul and his guard chained to him next in line toward UC. Back of Paul in UL is company of Christians and singers.)*

*(In front line from guards at DR to UC is Alexander, Tertullus, back of which in UR is other Jews and Romans.)*

*(Curtain rises on scene of entertaining Nero. Have a soloist sing or play as court entertainer, ending soon after the curtain rises, and bowing low, back off to side.)*

JULIUS: *(Now the Prefect.) (Approaching the throne and bowing before Nero)* My lord, at thy commands we have assembled the court of justice, and at thy divine pleasure the first case to appear before thee and thy counsellors is that of the noted prisoner from Judea, Paul the Christian.

NERO: Who represents each side of this case?

JULIUS: Tertullus, the lawyer, from Jerusalem, is here to lead the prosecution, and the prisoner, who is a Roman citizen, will make his own defense.

NERO: Have all the witnesses arrived?

JULIUS: My lord, all is ready according to thy commands.

NERO: I am pleased at thy obedience and efficiency, Julius. The gods were favoring when I raised thee to Prefect of the Guards in place of Tigellinus, who tried to play with me. But I beat him in the game.

Ha! ha! ha! Am I not the god of the Romans? Does any man or beast dare trifle with my authority? Is there any thing I can not do?

Talk about poetry! Was there ever such lyric as goes forth from my inspired soul?

Listen, all ye grinning imbeciles, while the whole coterie of Roman gods, charmed from their mountain-top retreats by the sound of my melodious voice, linger around to applaud one of their own divine number so talented as the mighty Nero. Listen, I say, while I sing a number of my own composition.

*(Nero leans back on the judgment-seat and, with a self-satisfied air and many foolish gestures, sings the following jingle:)*

#### NERO'S SONG.

Was ever a man as great as me?  
Heigh ho! diddle dum dee—  
There's not a thing I do not know,  
Heigh ho! diddle dum do.  
I'm also rich as I can be—  
Heigh ho! diddle dum dee—  
My voice is very sweet and low,  
Heigh ho! diddle dum do.  
My feet are small, you plainly see,  
Heigh ho! diddle dum dee—  
My servants love to bow real low;  
Heigh ho! diddle dum do.  
Around the world I put the sea—  
Heigh ho! diddle dum dee—  
I make the sun go fast or slow,  
Heigh ho! diddle dum do.

*(When he finishes, the attendants, counsellors,\* and others applaud, even though disgusted.)*

*(The applause pleases Nero, and he chuckles good-naturedly, and shows by his actions generally that he is satisfied with himself.)*

*(After loud, forced applause, Nero finally straightens up and with a frown on his face says:)*

NERO: I am greatly disturbed in such heavenly exercises to give my attention to the law. Let the trial begin. Tertullus, present your case!

TERTULLUS: *(Ingratiating tone)* My Lord Cæsar, most divine, permit me to bring to your august attention the

crimes against the peace of the empire perpetrated by the prisoner before the bar.

He hath caused trouble and strife among the people of his nation in Judea and throughout the world.

NERO: Hath he been before this tribunal before?

JULIUS: Yea, my lord, and freed by the court on these charges made by his enemies.

NERO: (*To Tertullus*) Why do you bring this case to disturb me in song and music?

TERTULLUS: My lord, we have additional evidence. Since he was freed by Cæsar's judges, he hath traveled over the empire from east to west, from Palestine to Spain, everywhere causing strife and insurrection.

Alexander, the coppersmith, of Ephesus, is here to witness against him.

NERO: Alexander, what sayest thou?

ALEXANDER: (*Old, bent, leaning on staff, high, squeaky voice, steps forward in DR. Nero and Popæa greatly amused.*) This man Paul greatly disturbeth our nation. In my own city he caused a great tumult and greatly injured the crafts.

NERO: Be more specific.

ALEXANDER: He taught in our city of Ephesus doctrines opposed to the worship of the goddess of Diana, and there arose a great multitude, led by Demetrius, to slay him. I would have spoken to quiet the mob, but they cried all the louder.

NERO: Ha, ha, ha! I pity thee; thou art no orator like unto me. Who did disperse the mob?

ALEXANDER: The town clerk arose in the theater where they were gathered, and when he had told them the punishment thy government would inflict for such disturbances, they were quietly dispersed.

NERO: It is well no further violence was done, but I suspect that Demetrius, thy friend, the silversmith, and



thyself, the coppersmith, were the guilty parties in stirring up that riot.

Julius, thou wilt hold this man in prison for further inquiry.

*(At motion of Julius, the two soldiers near Alexander seize him and take him out, but return quietly to their place.)*

Let the prisoner make his defense!

*(Paul is brought forward chained to his guard.)*

PAUL: I count myself fortunate indeed to be able to stand before thee this day, for I am sure that thou hast seen through the thin cover of legal pretensions to the malicious plot of my enemies. They know, as thou canst readily ascertain, that I have violated no law of thy empire nor disturbed its peace.

If I belong to the sect of the Nazarenes, I ask no more than these Pharisees or Sadducees, who are also a part of our Jewish faith.

NERO: I am tired of this quarrel among the Jews. Set this man at liberty, let us be done with the case. I want something more exciting.

Where is my harp? Music, music; that only Nero can produce. Pry open thy ears and get thy fill.

*(Nero is handed an instrument. He plays poorly, but is greatly applauded, although disgust is apparent.)*

*(While Nero is performing or others are performing for his amusement, Tertullus and other Jews slip around to the side of Popæa and have a guarded but animated conversation with her in pantomime. She nods assurance to their request, and motions them to resume their places as before.)*

*(While Tertullus and Jews are talking to Popæa, some of the boys might pull off athletic stunts to amuse Nero.)*

*(When Nero is wearied and the performance is ended, Popæa addresses him so all can hear.)*



POPÆA: My lord, thy skill at music seems to excel all others in the empire, and even all thy skill in other lines. Thou art a great musician, but I think myself thy superior as a judge.

NERO: Thy last remark sours the first, and may cost thee thy precious life. Thou hast a hidden meaning. Out with it if thou carest to linger here but for awhile before going the way of my former wife, Octavia, and other illustrious members of thy family that chose to get in my way.

POPÆA: My lord, thou mayest win the game, but it is now my time to play. Thou wilt be pleased at my hand. Thy greatest enemy is about to slip away from thy very grasp. Thou hast set at liberty this Saul of Tarsus. Yet he has been teaching, even while here in Rome, that there is one greater than Cæsar, one he calls Jesus, whom he claims to have risen from the dead.

NERO: (*In violent passion*) What! One greater than Cæsar! What impudence! Who dares to teach such insane ideas to my people?

POPÆA: Thou knowest not thy opportunity, or this prisoner would pay the price for the burning of Rome, which many think was due to thy commands. Behead this man as the ring leader of the conspiracy to burn the sacred city, and all will forget to think of thy name in this connection.

NERO: Popæa, thou art a devil much to my liking. I thought to slay thee, but I need thee yet awhile.

Put the prisoner in chains and bring him before me.

Paul, hearest thou the charge, that thou art teaching the Romans that thy Jesus is greater than Cæsar?

Speak thou.

PAUL: Jesus, the Christ, whom I worship as Master, is not to be compared with any man.

His Kingdom is not of this world. He seeks not thy throne. He is King of Heaven—King of all kings.

NERO: Thou art mad. Away with him! Julius, take him to the executioner and let his head be severed from his body. Let his blood run forth hot until his heart cease. Bury his carcass like a dog.

PAUL'S GUARD: (*Throwing down his spear*) My lord, the emperor, if this holy man die thus, I worship the same Master; let me die with him.

(*Let other soldiers, servants, members of the court step forward, confess their faith in Christ, and choose death with Paul. With such expressions in succession as "And I," "And I," "Let me die!" etc.*)

NERO: Dogs! Let them be slain upon a cross. Feed them to the lions. Chain them together for the death march.

JULIUS: My lord Nero! Wilt thou not be merciful? If this prisoner shall withhold his teachings, wilt thou not pardon him for pity?

NERO: Nay, but for thy sake; if he will deny his Christ and worship the gods of Rome, I may perchance stay his execution.

What sayest thou, Paul?

PAUL: (*Speaking with deliberation and dignity, but progressing to climax at close.*)

Thou art deaf and blind, deformed in mind, soul, and body. I pity thee, thou servant of the devil, traveling to hell. The curse of a righteous God is upon thee.

Thou shalt bring upon thyself the contempt of the whole empire, and shalt be shorn of thy power, and Galba shalt reign in thy stead.

Thou shalt add to thy numerous murders and other crimes the blood of her whom thou shalt slay in thy madness, even Popæa.

Within a year thou shalt follow the dictates of thy master, the devil, and take thine own miserable life.

In my vision I clearly see the downfall of thy empire and religion. The temples of heathenism shall crumble and fall into ruin.

The people shall turn from their idols to the living God, who made heaven and earth. The Kingdom of Righteousness shall be built up through faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God. For there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby ye may be saved.

I did appeal unto Cæsar, but Nero is a living lie and knoweth not truth nor justice. I appeal unto the God of Heaven, and have Jesus Christ as my intercessor. Nero's executioner shall assist me to reach the great white throne of God.

I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me in that day; and not to me only, but to all who love His appearing.

NERO: Away with him! Away with him!

*(Christians crowd to front of stage around Paul and march off DR with him, singing triumphant hymn.)*

*(The two soldiers at DR step forward and turn about at DC and lead out the procession at exit DR. Paul with uplifted hands follows other Christians, and Julius and other soldiers come last.)*

*(Nero in a helpless rage walks about the stage, and, as they disappear, returns to throne and cries.)*

NERO: On with the revel.

*(Drill or performers appear from entrance DL begin to perform as the curtain drops, or some such closing stunt.)*

## STAGE POSITIONS

U R

U C

U L

D R

D C  
Down Center

D L

U-up or rear, D-down or front  
R-Right, C-Center, L-Left

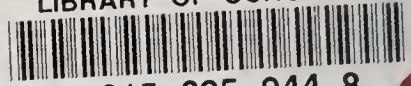








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